

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 10, 2006. Applicant amends Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-18, 20-21, 23-24, 27-28, 30-32, 34, 37-39, 41, 44-46, 49, 52-54, 57, and 60-62 and cancels Claims 2, 5-6, 12, 15-16, 19, 22, 25-26, 29, 35-36, 43, 51, 59, and 65-70 without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments and cancellation to these claims are not the result of any prior art reference and, thus, do not narrow the scope of any of the claims. Furthermore, the amendments are not related to patentability issues and only further clarify subject matter already present. All of Applicant's amendments have only been done in order to advance prosecution in this case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 47, 55, and 63, and indication that Claims 8-9, 18-19, 28-29, 38-39, 45-46, 53-54, and 61-62 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. (See Pending Office Action, page 4.) Applicant has amended the Independent Claims to incorporate limitations that have been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Thus, all the pending claims now recite subject matter deemed by the Examiner to be allowable.

Note that any amendments in this response that implicate the deemed "allowable subject matter" should not be construed as an agreement with or an acquiescence to the propriety of the purported allowable subject matter. Applicant earnestly believes all of the pending claims are allowable in their original form. Applicant reserves the right to comment on the appropriateness of the allowed subject matter designation at a future time, should Applicant deem it appropriate to do so.

Section 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 7, 10-14, 17, 20-24, 27, 30-34, 37, 40-42, 44, 48-50, 52, 56-58, 60, and 64 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0039237 A1 issued to Forslow (hereinafter "*Forslow*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,190 issued to Bressler (hereinafter "*Bressler*"). Applicant believes that this rejection is now moot in light of the amendments to the claims, as indicated above.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims are allowable; written notice to this effect is respectfully requested in the form of a full allowance of the pending claims.


CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for all other reasons clear and apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant believes no fee is due. However, if this is not correct, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Thomas J. Frame at 214.953.6675.

Respectfully submitted,
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